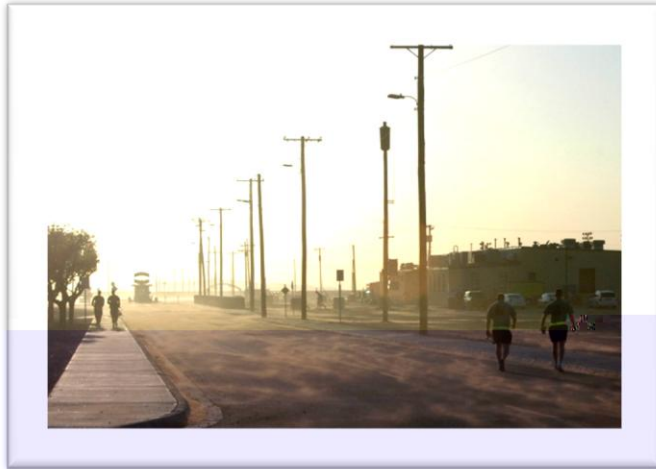




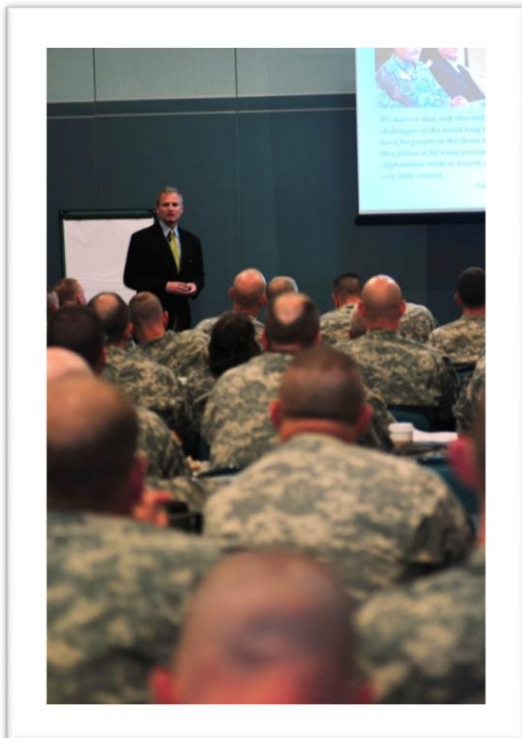
Red Arrow Brigade **FAMILY UPDATE** April 8, 2009

Here's our fifth update from Fort Bliss. Most of the 32nd soldiers are on the last leg of training and are looking forward to their passes, then getting their boots *off* the ground in New Mexico and *on* the ground in Iraq.

The weather here at McGregor varies a lot from day to day, and even from hour to hour. Some of the mornings here have been flat out cold (but of course being from Wisconsin we don't hear too many people complain). And some of the cold mornings add high winds to the mix. And when we say wind, we mean WIND. Some days the gusts have reached 50 miles per hour. The wind blows sand everywhere and makes it downright unpleasant sometimes.



I'm sure many of you heard about a shooting incident at the main Post Exchange on Fort Bliss Saturday. The shooting didn't involve any 32nd soldiers. We want to assure you that the 32nd is doing fine, and we extend our condolences to the families involved.



Training is nearing an end here, but that doesn't mean we have stopped. Many soldiers, mostly officers and NCOs, got some great training from the Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace program. LDESP includes an interesting on-line class and a lecture series. Senior leaders received a high level three-day lecture that included topics such as the history and culture of Iraq, understanding Islam, using an interpreter, media relations, and counterinsurgency operations. The lecturers were experts in their fields: professors, retired senior military officers, religious leaders, or Iraqi military officials. The training will be helpful as we prepare to understand the culture we will soon be immersed in. The aim of the course is to create awareness of the culture and mindset of the Iraqi people. The training is aimed at helping our Red Arrow soldiers support the continuing transition from U.S. to Iraqi control, and to help form a stable government and lasting peace in Iraq.

With the end of our time at Bliss in sight, many of us are looking forward to our validation. Validation is a requirement to make sure that every soldier gets all the training they will need to complete their missions. Validation is the last important step here at Bliss.

Pass dates are getting closer by the day, which is a sign that our training here is almost over. We hope that you enjoy your time with your soldier if you are coming down to visit. We have been highlighting local areas that are available for pass and this week we will let you know about some of the many things to do in the Tucson, Ariz., area (information from Wikipedia).

TUCSON

Tucson is a city in Pima County, Arizona, located 118 miles southeast of Phoenix and 60 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Tucson has a population of 525,529, with a metropolitan area of 1,023,320. It is the 32nd largest city and the 52nd largest metropolitan area in the United States.

Tucson also has many museums and other points of interest.



- The Arizona Historical Society, founded as the Pioneer Historical Society by early settlers, has a collection of artifacts reflecting the city's history—many focusing on the era before statehood was attained in 1912—as well as a fine collection of original documents in its library, including many interviews with early residents.
- Fort Lowell Museum is located on the grounds of a military fort, established in 1873 during the “Indian Wars” period and abandoned in 1891.
- The Tucson Museum of Art was established as part of an art school. It contains nearly 6,000 objects concentrating on the art of the Americas and its influences. The museum also operates several historic buildings in the neighborhood, including La Casa Cordova, the J. Knox Corbett House, the Edward Nye Fish House and the Stevens/Duffield House.
- The Mission San Xavier del Bac is a historic Spanish mission, located 10 miles south of the city. It was founded by Father Kino in the 1660s as one mission in a chain of missions, many of which are located south of the border. The present building dates from the late 1700s. The mission, which still actively functions, is located in the Tohono O’odham nation reservation southwest of Tucson off of Interstate 19.
- The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a non-traditional zoo devoted to indigenous animals and plants of the Sonoran Desert. It pioneered the use of naturalistic environments instead of simple cages for zoo animals. It is located west of the Tucson Mountains.
- The Pima Air & Space Museum, featuring over 250 modern and historical aircraft, is located to the southeast of the city near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.
- The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) is a facility where the federal government stores out-of-service aircraft. Bus tours are conducted

regularly from the Pima Air & Space Museum. You may have heard it called “the Boneyard.”

- Titan Missile Museum is located about 25 miles south of the city on Interstate 19. This is a Cold War-era Titan nuclear missile silo (billed as the only remaining intact post-Cold War Titan missile silo) turned tourist stop.
- Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum has an inventory of 150 vehicles, ranging from small buggies to wagons, surries, and coaches. Historic artifacts from pioneer days and a re-created Western Main Street represent what early Wild West Tucson looked like, and what it offered in terms of businesses and services.
- El Tiradito is a religious shrine in the downtown area. The Shrine dates back to the early days of Tucson. It's based on a love story of revenge and murder. People stop by the Shrine to light a candle for someone in need, a place for people to go give hope.
- Trail Dust Town is an outdoor shopping mall and restaurant complex built from the remains of a 1950 western movie set. Trail Dust Town contains a number of historical artifacts, including a restored 1920s merry-go-round and a museum dedicated to Western cavalry and dragoon military units.
- The city is home to more than 120 parks, including Reid Park Zoo. There are five public golf courses located throughout the area. Several scenic parks and points of interest are also located nearby, including the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Saguaro National Park, Sabino Canyon, and Biosphere 2 (just north of the city, in the town of Oracle).

We thank you all for your support and hope that everything is going well back in Wisconsin. We will send more updates and hope to stay in touch with all of you back home.

— Spc. Tyler Lasure
32nd BCT Public Affairs

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Photo Captions

Page 1 (Top):

Red Arrow soldiers truck through the wind and sand on their way to the Post Exchange. Winds sometimes reach 50 mph, and blowing sand makes being outside unpleasant. *Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay.*

Page 1 (Bottom):

Dodge Billingsley, an instructor for the Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace program, briefs 32nd soldiers about the news media environment in Iraq. The LDESP program is aimed at helping soldiers prepare for the culture of Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez.*

Page 2:

This photo from Wikipedia captures a nighttime view of Tucson with the Catalina Mountains in the background.